

**EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO. EU746729214US**

Attorney Docket No. 63351.000013

Attorney Customer No. 27682

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re US Patent Application of:	)	
	)	
William G. DENNIS et al.	)	
	)	
Application No.: Unassigned	)	Group Art Unit: Unassigned
	)	
Filing Date: February 27, 2004	)	Examiner: Unassigned
	)	
Title: SURGICAL INSTRUMENT SEAL	)	
ASSEMBLY	)	

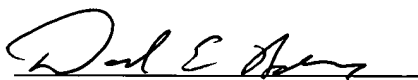
**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Attached hereto is a duly completed PTO-1449 Form listing references which may be considered either material or helpful to the examination of the above-identified patent application. The PTO-1449 Form lists references which were made of record parent U.S. Patent Application Nos. 10/112,625. It is understood that since these references have been submitted in the priority applications, additional copies are not required by the United States Patent and Trademark Office and therefore are not submitted herewith. It is requested that all these references be considered by the Examiner and officially made of record.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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Date: February 27, 2004

<b>Form PTO-1449</b> U.S. Department of Commerce (Rev. 8-83) Patent and Trademark Office		Atty. Docket No.: 63351.000013		Serial No.: Unassigned			
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b>  (Use several sheets if necessary)							
Applicant: William G. Dennis et al.							
Filing Date: February 27, 2004				Group: Unassigned			
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
Examiner Initial*		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (if appropriate)
	1	4,929,235	5/29/90	Merry et al.			
	2	4,960,412	10/2/90	Fink			
	3	5,053,013	10/1/91	Ensminger et al.			
	4	5,147,336	9/15/92	Wendell et al.			
	5	5,180,373	1/19/93	Green et al.			
	6	5,269,763	12/14/93	Boehmer et al.			
	7	5,308,336	5/3/94	Hart et al.			
	8	5,385,553	1/31/95	Hart et al.			
	9	5,304,143	4/19/94	Green et al.			
	10	5,391,153	2/21/95	Haber et al.			
	11	5,456,284	10/10/95	Ryan et al.			
	12	5,476,475	12/19/95	Gadberry			
	13	5,492,304	2/20/96	Smith et al.			
	14	5,496,280	3/5/96	Vandenbroek et al.			
Examiner:				Date Considered:			
*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							

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<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>						
Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (if appropriate)
	15	5,562,632	10/8/96	Davila et al.		
	16	5,603,702	2/18/97	Smith et al.		
	17	5,628,732	5/13/97	Antoon, Jr. et al.		
	18	5,643,227	7/1/97	Stevens		
	19	5,709,664	1/20/98	Vandenbroek et al.		
	20	5,720,730	2/24/98	Blake, III		
	21	5,727,770	3/17/98	Dennis		
	22	5,741,228	4/21/98	Lambrecht et al.		
	23	5,752,938	5/19/98	Flatland et al.		
	24	5,820,600	10/13/98	Carlson et al.		
	25	5,820,604	10/13/98	Fox et al.		
	26	5,848,997	12/15/98	Erschine et al.		
	27	6,258,065	07/10/01	Dennis et al.		
	28					
Examiner:			Date Considered:			
*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.						